

Dear Representative Fleishmann, Senator Slossberg, Senator Boucher and Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing today to adamantly oppose HB 5447. I have been in the field of special education for over 15 years, and have worked with so many different school districts, children and their families. Each child I have taught has required vastly different programming and services to be successful. This bill does not take into account the different challenges the service providers and private schools encounter in sustaining and ultimately finding creative solutions for, in order to educate students with special needs. Just a few examples include traveling both near and far from their homes to provide services, providing services for students who exhibit extremely dangerous behavior (those who require multiple staff members to keep them safe), students who require intensive services from multiple service providers to make even the smallest gains, and those students who have been unable to be educated by the typical teacher in the typical public school environment. The restrictions you are proposing will limit the ability of schools and families to make sure their children/students are receiving services from the most qualified, highly trained and experienced individuals, who are capable of helping the children make the most significant gains. They will end up with services from inexperienced and under qualified people.

This will ultimately effect our most at risk population in a negative way. Please consider my strong opposition of this bill.

Thank you,
Tracy Sanford
65 Craige Avenue
Stratford, CT 06614